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FOUR NEW UNITED STATES RECORDS OF MOTHS FROM TEXAS

The four moths illustrated here represent new records for the United States and were collected in extreme S Texas in UV light traps. The lower Rio Grande valley has been drastically modified by the environmental changes that accompany rapid population growth, intensive agricultural land use, and widespread aerial spraying of pesticides. Few natural areas remain, and the consequences of this are becoming apparent. One endemic moth, *Agapema solita* Ferguson (Saturniidae), formerly common around Brownsville and known only from southern Texas (Ferguson *in* Dominick et al. 1972, Moths of America north of Mexico, fasc. 20.2B, E. W. Classey Ltd., London), has not been seen since 1956, and may now be extinct, or nearly so, as a result of habitat destruction. Probably there are other not as well documented examples.

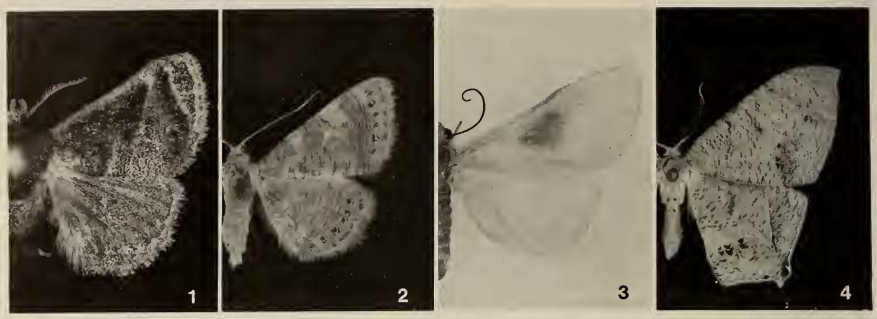
In spite of the loss of habitat, unusual species of Lepidoptera continue to appear, including many new records for the United States (Kendall & McGuire 1984, Bull. Allyn Mus. Entomol. 86:1–50; Blanchard & Knudson 1985, J. Lepid. Soc. 39:1–8). Some are probably individual nonbreeding immigrants from a large reservoir of species that still exists in the Sierra Madre Oriental of northeastern Mexico, where rich tropical to montane temperate zone forests are found within 322 km of the border. However, some Mexican species do become established periodically in S Texas, later to be extirpated by low temperatures or drought. One case of temporary occurrence was reported but subsequently overlooked, and is perhaps worth citing here. Adults of the pantropical bean pod borer, *Maruca testulalis* (Geyer) (Pyralidae, Pyraustinae), were reared from larvae feeding on string beans at Olmito, Cameron Co., Texas (Williamson 1943, J. Econ. Entomol. 36:936–937). This species has not again been reported from the continental United States, although it can thrive in agricultural environments in warmer climates (Ferguson 1983, Pests not known to occur in the United States or of limited distribution, No. 40, PPQ, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA). Details of the new records follow.

Euprosterna lacipea Druce (Limacodidae), Brownsville, Cameron Co.,7 August 1976, 1 male; Santa Ana Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Hidalgo Co., 28 May 1982, 8 males (Fig. 1); 14 May 1983, 1 male; 4 August 1986, 3 males; collected by E. C. Knudson. Body and wings dark brown, lightly frosted with light gray; bands on forewing upper side light gray; length of forewing 9–10 mm. This species appears well established in S Texas, though apparently was not present before 1976. There are three Mexican specimens in the U.S. National Museum (USNM) from Vera Cruz and Colima.

Molybdogompha polymygmata Dyar (Geometridae), Santa Ana Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Hidalgo Co., 23 September 1980, 1 female (Fig. 2), collected by Knudson. Wing upper sides light yellowish brown with multiple, transverse parallel, blackish striations and a regular subterminal row of ocellate spots; terminal line of silvery, interrupted dashes; length of forewing 8.5 mm. The type specimen and a second specimen are in the USNM and both are from Vera Cruz. A third Mexican specimen was collected by Knudson near Cd. Valles, San Luis Potosí, 28 November 1978, and is in the American Museum of Natural History. The relations of this genus within the Geometridae are unclear, but its superficial appearance indicates that it might belong to the tribe Baptini (Ennominae).

Eubaphe medea (Druce) (Geometridae), Bentsen State Park, Hidalgo Co., 27 May 1982, 3 males (Fig. 3), collected by Knudson. Body orange; wings translucent pale orange with opaque bright orange discal patch; middle of forewing costal margin with fold; length of forewing 14–15 mm. This species has apparently been collected in Mexico, but the locality and present specimen location are not known to us. It is otherwise known from Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama (Fletcher 1954, Zoologica [New York Zool. Soc.] 39:153–166).

Psamathia placidaria (Walker) (Epiplemidae), Santa Ana Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, 30



FIGS. 1–4. **1**, *Euprosterna lacipea* Druce; **2**, *Molybdogompha polymygmata* Dyar; **3**, *Eubaphe medea* (Druce); **4**, *Psamathia placidaria* (Walker).

November 1981, 1 male (Fig. 4), collected by Knudson. Body and wings grayish brown above and below; wings above with innumerable, broken, blackish striations and black dots over lower median area of forewing and near anal margin of hindwing; hindwing produced as a short, black-marked, obliquely truncated tail; length of forewing 18 mm. This species ranges from Mexico to Venezuela. In Mexico, it has been collected in Tamaulipas by Knudson and Alma Solis.

DOUGLAS C. FERGUSON, *Systematic Entomology Lab., USDA, % U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560,* AND EDWARD C. KNUDSON, *808 Woodstock, Bellaire, Texas 77401, Research Associate, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, Florida 32602.*

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NEW HOST RECORDS FOR *EUPLOEA CORE CORINNA* (MACLEAY) (NYMPHALIDAE)

During the course of taxonomic studies on Asclepiadaceae and Apocynaceae, numerous observations of oviposition, feeding and pupation of the crow butterfly, *Euploea core corinna* (Macleay) were made. This butterfly is widely distributed in northern and eastern Australia (Common & Waterhouse 1981, Butterflies of Australia, Angus & Robertson, Sydney) with temperature requirements and suitable host plants restricting the subspecies range (Scheermeyer 1985, Aust. J. Zool. 33:339–348). In a review of host plant records for this Australian species, various species of Asclepiadaceae and Apocynaceae, either naturalized or cultivated, were listed, as well as native species of these families and the Moraceae (Scheermeyer & Zalucki 1985, Aust. Entomol. Mag. 11:87–90). Some host plants have been demonstrated to significantly affect development times, weights, size, and mortalities at all stages of the life cycle (Rahman, Zalucki & Scheermeyer 1985, J. Aust. Entomol. Soc. 24:95–98).

Euploea core corinna is known at times to oviposit on unsuitable hosts (Kitching & Zalucki 1983, Aust. Entomol. Mag. 10:64–66) and I have observed eggs on *Mammillaria gracilis* Pfeiff. (Cactaceae), but no larval feeding. In some instances, limited larval feeding may occur as observed on the Madagascan *Cynanchum compactum* Choux and three